

H. R. 1176.

(Rep. No. 314.)

FEBRUARY 28, 1839.

Read twice, and committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, and made the special order for to-morrow at 11 o'clock.

Mr. HOWARD, from the Committee on Foreign Affairs, reported the following bill:

A BILL

Giving to the President of the United States additional powers for the defence of the United States, in certain cases, against invasion, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives*
2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That*
3 the President of the United States be, and he hereby is, au-
4 thorized to resist any attempt on the part of Great Britain to
5 enforce, by arms, her claim to exclusive jurisdiction over
6 that part of the State of Maine which is in dispute between
7 the United States and Great Britain; and, for that purpose,
8 to employ the naval and military forces of the United States
9 and such portions of the militia as he may deem it advisable
10 to call into service.

1 SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted, That, in the event of*
2 actual invasion of the territory of the United States by any
3 foreign Power, or of imminent danger of such invasion dis-
4 covered, in his opinion, to exist, before Congress can be con-

5 vened to act upon the subject, the President of the United
6 States be, and he hereby is, authorized, in addition to the
7 present military establishment of the United States, to raise
8 a provisional force, to be enlisted for five years, or during
9 the continuance of hostilities with any foreign Power, not
10 exceeding one regiment of dragoons, one regiment of artil-
11 lery, two regiments of riflemen, and sixteen regiments of in-
12 fantry, to be organized, in all respects, like the correspond-
13 ing regiments now in service; and, also, to appoint not ex-
14 ceeding one major general, four brigadiers general, and not
15 exceeding one surgeon and one assistant surgeon for each
16 new regiment; the regiments, general, and medical officers
17 to be subject to the same laws and rules, and to be entitled
18 to the same benefits, of every kind, with the like corps and offi-
19 cers now in service; and it shall be the duty of the Presi-
20 dent to discharge the troops which may be raised by virtue
21 of this act whenever the occasion for them, as defined by this
22 act, shall cease to exist.

1 SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That, in the event of
2 either of the contingencies provided in the first section of
3 this act, the President of the United States shall be authori-
4 zed to complete the public armed vessels now authorized by
5 law, and to equip, man, and employ, in actual service, all the
6 naval force of the United States.

1 SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That the sum of

2 millions of dollars is hereby appropriated and placed at his
3 disposal for the purpose of executing the provisions of this
4 act; to provide for which the Secretary of the Treasury is
5 authorized to borrow money on the credit of the United
6 States, and to cause to be issued certificates of stock, signed
7 by the Register of the Treasury, for the sum to be borrowed,
8 or any part thereof; and the same to be sold upon the best
9 terms that may be offered after public notice for proposals
10 for the same: *Provided*, That no engagement or contract
11 shall be entered into which shall preclude the United States
12 from reimbursing any sum or sums thus borrowed after the
13 expiration of five years from the first of January next; and
14 that the rate of interest shall not exceed five per cent., pay-
15 able semi-annually.

1 SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That the sum of
2 eighteen thousand dollars be, and the same is hereby, appro-
3 priated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise ap-
4 propriated, for outfit and salary of a special minister to Great
5 Britain: *Provided*, The President of the United States shall
6 deem it expedient to appoint the same.